

JAPANESE ALLIANCE OFF, RIVALRY BEGINS

Its Abrogation, Kato Says,
Might Lead to Another
Naval Race.

URGES ITS RENEWAL

But Favors Modifications to
Reassure China and Suit
League of Nations.

OPPOSITION HAS NO CASE

Treaty Expects America,
Called 'Third Party,' From
Attack by Britain.

By the Associated Press.

NAOYA, Japan, July 9.—Abrogation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance might necessitate Great Britain's keeping her Pacific fleet to a certain degree of efficiency, and strengthening of her Pacific force by Great Britain might oblige Japan to follow suit and strengthen her navy, former Foreign Minister Kato declared in addressing the Kenseikai, or Opposition party, of which he is the leader, here to-day.

M. Kato, who as Ambassador of Japan to England, participated in negotiation of the existing treaty, urged a renewal of the alliance with modifications calculated to reassure China and also to harmonize with the League of Nations. He said the alliance originally was intended to be directed against Russia and Germany, but its necessity in these directions had disappeared. It was not surprising, therefore, M. Kato declared, that some should urge there was no longer a necessity for the alliance, but, considering that Great Britain and Japan had been maintaining friendly relations for many years it would be a great pity if the treaty should be abandoned.

M. Kato pointed out that abrogation of the alliance would not affect the friendly relations of the two empires, but he asserted its discontinuance might make people think something was wanting to keep the two nations friends, and therefore it was desirable the treaty should be kept in force. M. Kato declared that if the alliance were continued Great Britain would be under no necessity to reinforce her strength in the Pacific. He continued:

"It appears some opposition has been raised in America and in China, but it seems uncalculated. Even as it stands, the treaty stipulates that Great Britain shall not come to Japan's assistance in case of a war between America and Japan, while it contains nothing inimical to the sovereignty of China. If China objects to the use of the word 'China' in the treaty it might be altered to 'the Far East.' In short, the opposition of America and China is not based on reasonable and solid grounds. What is deplorable is that the Government has been adopting a policy of extreme secrecy in dealing with the alliance, thereby giving rise to a crop of unfounded rumors."

Continues Until Denounced.

In a statement to the press M. Kato stated it was clear the alliance continues automatically until denounced. The discussion, he said, centered around that part of the treaty excluding the contracting parties from the necessity of assisting one another against a third party with whom a treaty of arbitration had been concluded.

"As one of the negotiators I am in a position to say the 'third party' clearly implied the United States," M. Kato's statement declared. "Lord Grey (former British Foreign Minister) insisted that the United States be mentioned. I took the same view, but the Foreign Department did not like to have the United States clearly mentioned and Lord Grey ultimately yielded. There appears in the alliance no provision conflicting with the Anglo-American arbitration treaty."

PRINCE GOES TO ITALY.

TORLON, France, July 9.—Crown Prince Hirohito of Japan sailed for Naples at noon to-day on board the Japanese battleship Katori. The escort consisted of the Japanese battleship Kashima and French torpedo boats.

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KING'S CHAT WITH HARVEY OPENS WAY FOR BIG EVENT

Continued from First Page.

known. What would be no secret in history ought to be known at this hour.

King's Irish Service Excelled.
"His Majesty's service in connection with Ireland has been equalled or surpassed by his services in connection with America."

"We have now reached this momentous position. The way is absolutely clear as all British peoples wished it cleared for the unfettered initiative of President Harding himself. That is the right of his position. That is equally a pivot for practical wisdom in the circumstances. He cannot put himself in the position of responding to suggestions from the British and Japanese sides. It is entirely for him to make the suggestions. The President of the United States has this infinitely momentous yet delicate business. He must lead. He knows by now that all English speaking nations are ready without reserve to welcome his initiative and accept his leadership with unbounded good will."

"The Prime Minister is to make a statement in the House of Commons to-morrow. I trust that he may find himself able even then to include the epoch making announcement of proposals from Washington. The way having been cleared and well explained, we believe and expect President Harding will establish his fame among American Presidents by taking the strongest step made since the armistice toward the redemption of the world and the salvation of the whole future course of destiny. He finds himself able to do much of that practical work for world peace and world prosperity which proved beyond the power of Wilson's method. If Harding succeeds he will leave to other generations a name as familiar as that of President Monroe."

Britons Will Aid Harding.

"We on this side will do our very utmost to help him succeed. The British Government by the will of all the nations it represents stands ready to enter into unconditional, unrestricted conference at such a time and place as the President himself may prefer. No small stipulations of any kind will be suffered to get in the way. I believe the same may be said for Japan and China."

"Before dwelling on all the bearings which make the magnitude of this proposition I must return to the remarkable means by which the whole situation was first jeopardized and then saved. First the Japanese treaty was automatically prolonged for at least a year by a technical interpretation which was unquestionable and valid. That of itself, however, could only suggest to Washington a slight additional reserve. There of course never had been the least doubt about the desire of Premier Lloyd George, the Dominion Premier and Lord Curzon for the fullest and freest consultation with the United States."

"That desire had been emphatically expressed by the Prime Minister himself and by Lord Lee in behalf of the Admiralty. But there were, as we have said, defects in procedure which would have been avoided had more exact co-ordination between Downing Street and the Foreign Office been accompanied by a better insight into American political conditions."

"Obviously the Foreign Office had been on the point of turning down the wrong road. The Prime Minister Thursday last undertook to inform the House of Commons that he was very hopeful of making to-morrow some definite statement to the Pacific problem. But that, he added, would depend upon the reply received from the United States, Japan and China."

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"Here was a little rift within the lute that spreading slowly would have silenced all. The American Government could not usefully have entered into any conference as a result of British suggestion. That in the first place would have been derogatory to Harding's position. It is true that he is the head American executive, like a prime minister, though more authoritatively so than any prime minister, but also during his term of office as President of the Republic he is a sovereign and among the greatest of sovereigns."

"Secondly, as we were allied with Japan under the treaty, newly explained to run further for twelve months, any suggestion from our side might easily seem to a large number of American people to be a manoeuvre in the interests of Japan. Strong elements in American public opinion, not merely anti-British but anti-ally, would have been up in arms against it. The American Administration would have been seriously embarrassed."

"In a word the whole project of a conference on the treaty, China, disarmament and all the problems related to the Pacific, would have been shipwrecked."

Mistake Quickly Corrected.

"That was the execrable position Thursday evening. Friday the mistake in procedure apparently caused by some misunderstanding between the Foreign Office and Downing Street received drastic correction. The Prime Minister's words about 'replies from the United States' were omitted and withdrawn from official existence. The situation happily became as though they had never been uttered. The way was clear again for President Harding. His initiative is neither anticipated nor prejudiced. What had happened between Thursday evening and Friday morning to bring about the change?"

"Almost by accident a great state festival was turned into a memorable political opportunity. Thursday night's ball in Buckingham Palace in honor of the King and Queen of Belgium was a pageant of splendor and beauty unknown since before the war. Against this magnificent background the King and the American Ambassador, who as every one knows are on very human terms with each other, had a conversation which certainly was earnest, and could not but have been important. The relations with America has been a subject of intense interest and solicitude to his Majesty all his life. Ambassador Harvey remarked the other day that if George III. could have spoken to the Thirteen Colonies as George V. spoke for Ireland the great separation would never have happened. The country may safely assume that the prompt personal efforts of the King himself will be gladly met by his Ministers to remove the hitch which might so easily have led to a deadlock."

"If this is the right version, as we think it is, then the service rendered by his Majesty to good relations between Great Britain and the United States is comparable with nothing else, in the intervening sixty years, than to Queen Victoria's historic work when she and the Prince Consort gave a more tactful and more conciliatory form to the critical despatch at the beginning of the American civil war."

"The political sequel is too broad in its scope for discussion in this article. It will demand and receive full discussion when President Harding's expected message becomes known. Upon that event the world hangs breathless with interest. Nothing now stands in America's way. As we have said the initiative of her Government is neither anticipated nor prejudiced. President Harding and the

exceptionally able group of men surrounding him will be assisted by the despatches from this side of Col. Harvey. He is an Ambassador trenchant in mind and expert in transaction who cares little about either speaking or ceremony for their own sake, but is always bent on getting something done and has actually done more in a few weeks than any of his predecessors could accomplish in the same time."

"It is for the Washington Cabinet, therefore, not only to issue a formal invitation, but to propose the terms of the conference. It is for the British Government to accept the terms in the broadest possible spirit. There is no issue directly or indirectly involved, but we must desire it to become the subject of an amicable, frank and thorough discussion. Obviously the status and future of China with regard to territorial integrity, equal commercial opportunity and methods for bringing the present convulsive anarchy into some kind of order must be fully dealt with before agreed decisions can be reached either upon disarmament or the treaty."

"The delegates from China must evidently sit with those of the British dominions and Japan, and Washington is free to invite or not to invite representatives from other Powers. The actual date of the conference may give considerable time beforehand for deliberation and preparation."

"The contingency of failure we decline to contemplate. The dread of failure must not lead us to attempt any anxious and niggling precautions. There is no place here for smaller diplomacy. We desire to secure an identity of view between all English speaking societies upon the Pacific question. We desire equally to avert a secular vendetta between the white and yellow races such as if once set up would surely plunge the world into repeated and immeasurable disasters. We desire that the weight of competitive armaments leading once more to certain war shall cease to curse fruitful energies and blight the outlook of mankind."

"This country is literally from the King downward ready to reciprocate. We are on the eve of a message from Washington which will result in lifting the nightmare from civilization and the opening of a new vista of daylight for world peace and world prosperity there will be no precedence to the praise or glory we shall not be willing to extend to President Harding and to America."

HARDING APPROVES

VERDICT FOR THE OWLS

Writes Thanks to Foreman of
Schoolboy Jury.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—President Harding has approved the finding of the schoolboys' jury which decided that the owls in the White House grounds may live. Interest in the subject was widespread among nature loving children all over the country, hundreds of whom submitted briefs to the American Forestry Association, which arranged the trial.

The President to-day addressed his approval to Jimmie Bradley, a Washington schoolboy and a member of a John Burroughs club, who headed the jury, in the following letter:

"My Dear Jimmie:
"Your conclusion is that the balance is in favor even of the least desirable of the birds, and I am inclined to agree with you. For why should these birds have been put here unless to perform some useful service? On the whole, I think we will grant them a reprieve. I think your John Burroughs club must be doing a useful work. I hope you will continue your nature studies and that later on, when you all become men and women, you will be as much disposed to apply the rules of equity and justice as you have been in this case."

"Most sincerely yours,
"WARREN G. HARDING."

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